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BOOK NOTICES.

The Geographical Society of the Pacific. An Examination into the Genuineness of the "Jeannette" Relics. Some Evidences of Currents in the Polar Regions. Report of the Special Committee appointed by the Council to Report upon the "Jeannette" Relics. 8vo. San Francisco, 1896.

This examination and report were made necessary by Prof. W. H. Dall's statement* that the *Jeannette* relics were not genuine, but the result of a trick played by some persons of the U. S. Greely Relief Expeditions of 1883 and 1884.

The relics in question were found on an ice-floe on the 18th of June, 1884, not far from Julianehaab, in South Greenland. The *Jeannette* sank near the New Siberian Islands on the 13th of June, 1881.

In August, 1884, the Danish Consul of New York received the following official communication:

THE COLONY JULIANEHAAB, in South Greenland, June 23d, 1884.

To the Consul for Denmark, at New York:

I hereby take the liberty to request the Consulate to inform the editors of the *New York Herald*, that on the 18th inst. three Greenlanders picked up on an ice-floe some effects and some partly-torn papers belonging to the American Arctic Expedition, among which are the following:

1.—Two end pieces of a wooden box, on which are written with lead pencil—on one piece—

<div style="border: 1px dotted black; padding: 10px;"> <p><i>General Orders.</i></p> <p><i>Telegrams.</i></p> <p><i>Sailing Orders.</i></p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px dotted black; padding: 10px;"> <p><i>Ship's Papers.</i></p> <p><i>Various Agreements.</i></p> <p><i>Charter Party.</i></p> </div>
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the last words are not very plain.

2.—On the other piece was—

<div style="border: 1px dotted black; padding: 10px; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><i>Before Sailing.</i></p> </div>

3.—A torn check book. On the back of one of the checks is printed, "For Deposit with the Bank of California."

4.—A pair of oilskin trousers, marked "Louis Noros."

* Fully set forth in a paper in *The National Geographic Magazine* for March, 1896, pp. 93-98.

These effects, numbering twenty-one pieces (besides the papers), are in my possession. I am going home to remain during the winter. Should anybody want further information the same can obtain it by addressing—

KOLONIBESTYRER C. LYTZEN,
Kongl. Grönl. Handels-Kontor,
Kjöbenhavn, K., Denmark.

Respectfully,
CARL LYTZEN.

These relics were placed in the hands of a member of the Danish Geographical Society, at Copenhagen, for safe keeping. The custodian died, his house was taken by another owner, and the relics disappeared.

Prof. Dall's strongest point is that Dr. Emil Bessels, in 1885, interviewed a number of the seamen and officers of the Relief expedition, and made notes of his examinations to the extent of forty or fifty pages of foolscap. The testimony of these seamen was, in brief, to the effect that the presence of *Jeannette* survivors in the Relief expedition had suggested the possibility of the hoax, which was carried out with no intention of serious deception. No names were mentioned and no particular man was personally cognizant of the act.

On one or two occasions Prof. Dall was invited to be present when some of the seamen called on Dr. Bessels. The notes taken by Dr. Bessels were burned with his house at Glendale, D. C., and he himself died in Germany in the year 1888. It does not appear that the notes were ever copied.

Prof. Dall says that his opinion as to the character of the relics was asked and made known to Dr. Nansen before his departure on the voyage from which he has not yet returned.

The Committee appointed by the Geographical Society of the Pacific ask, very properly, why neither Dr. Bessels nor Prof. Dall ever informed the Government of the seamen's testimony concerning the fictitious character of the relics.

The recorded drifts of vessels and trees and other material to the Greenland coast must be held, the Committee argue, to establish the existence of the Arctic currents which brought the *Jeannette* relics to Julianehaab.

The story of the hoax is rejected, as improbable in itself, and as constituting a reproach to the officers of the United States Navy.

With the return of Dr. Nansen it cannot fail to become known how far he was influenced in the formation of his plans by his belief in the genuineness of the *Jeannette* relics and their drift through the Arctic Ocean; but the main question will be left with-

out a definite answer, though it must be said that the facts, so far as known, and the probabilities support the Committee in their position.

Through Jungle and Desert. Travels in Eastern Africa. By William Astor Chanler, A.M. (Harv.), F.R.G.S., Honorary Member of the Imperial and Royal Geographical Society of Vienna. With Illustrations from Photographs taken by the Author, and Maps.

“*When I travelled I saw many things ; and I understand more than I can express.*”—ECCLESIASTICUS, xxxiv. 11.

8vo. New York, Macmillan & Co. London : Macmillan & Co., Ltd. 1896.

This volume is the record of two years' work in East Africa, undertaken for the purpose of adding something to the world's knowledge of the country lying between the Tana and Juba rivers. Mr. Chanler had some previous experience of African travel, and his companion, Lieut. von Höhnelt, was with Count Teleki on the expedition which resulted in the discovery of Lakes Rudolf and Stephanie. The plan of campaign was to ascend the Tana River to the limit of navigation, and from that to push as far as possible into the interior to the country of the Rendile, a tribe supposed to range between Lake Stephanie on the north and Mt. Kenia on the south, and reported to be rich in flocks and herds. From these people, if he found them, Mr. Chanler hoped to purchase fresh pack-animals and then to continue his explorations.

This plan was carried out, so far as the Rendile were concerned. They were encountered at a point about 100 miles to the northeast of Mt. Kenia. They are described as a tall, thin race, reddish brown in color, with soft, straight, closely cropped hair, regular and almost Caucasian features and fierce blue eyes. Their arms were bows and arrows and spears, and they seemed to be able to defend themselves against their predatory neighbors. The original home of the tribe was the district between the General Matthews Range and Lake Rudolf.

Each Rendile village is governed by a chief, who is elected by his fellows. Polygamy prevails, and with it primogeniture, though substantial presents are given to the brothers of the heir, who also assumes the care of his mother and sisters. When the sisters are married the goods paid for them become the property of the head of the family.

When a man dies the body is shaved and buried in a sitting